



TONTO NATIONAL FOREST **NEWS RELEASE**

Tonto National Forest, 2324 East McDowell Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85006 www.fs.usda.gov/Tonto

**For Immediate Release
December 9, 2011**

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Pile burning planned for 400 acres in Christopher Mountain area next week

Payson, Ariz. (December 9, 2011) – Payson Ranger District fire specialists will conduct prescribed fire treatments on 400 acres of vegetative debris piles in the Christopher Mountain area next week.

The plan includes 200 acres of piles on Christopher Mountain and 200 acres of piles northwest of Christopher Creek near Forest Road 284.

Residents and visitors to the area can expect to see and smell moderate amounts of smoke each day of the prescribed fire operation.

Smoke during the day will move in a northeasterly direction and may impact Hunter Creek, Christopher Creek, R-C Boy Scout Camp, and Kohls Ranch. Diurnal air flow in the evening hours will move residual smoke down Tonto Creek and may impact the Gordon Canyon area.

Ignitions will end each day by 3 pm to mitigate smoke impacts. Smoke from the prescribed fire treatments may linger in these areas through next Friday.

During fire operations, signs will be posted along the roads that are likely to be affected by smoke. Motorists are urged to use caution while driving through these areas and to slow down for the safety of firefighters and the public.

Prescribed fire treatments are always dependent on optimal weather conditions before ignitions begin, such as temperature, fuel moisture content, relative humidity, wind speed and direction, and other variables.

For information about prescribed fire and mechanical fuels reduction operations, please call the Payson Ranger District at 928-474-7900. Residents can also stay updated on forest prescribed fires at www.fs.usda.gov/Tonto. To report a wildland fire, the fire emergency number is 480-457-1555, or 866-746-6516.